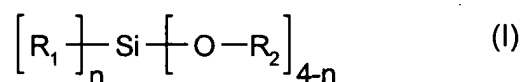


In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A coating composition comprising

- a) an organic film-forming binder selected from the group consisting of polyurethane resin, amino resin, acrylic resin, acrylic copolymer resin, polyvinyl resin, phenolic resin, styrene/butadiene copolymer resin, vinyl/acrylic copolymer resin, UV-curable resin, a mixture of two or more of the resins, an aqueous basic dispersion of the resins or mixtures of the resins, an aqueous acidic dispersion of the resins or mixtures of the resins and an aqueous emulsion of the resins or mixtures of the resins, and
- b) an inorganic additive with a base, which inorganic additive is of small particle size dispersed in an aqueous or alcoholic solvent prepared by a process which comprises the hydrolysis of a metal alcoholate, metal halide or a compound of the formula I



in which

R₁ is C₁-C₈alkyl, C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₁-C₄alkyl substituted phenyl;

R₂ is C₁-C₈alkyl, and

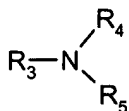
n is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

2. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating is transparent.

3. (previously presented) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which the metal of either the metal alcoholate or metal halide is beryllium, aluminium, titanium, chromium, iron, zinc, zirconium, niobium or cerium.

4. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which the alcoholic solvent is methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutanol or tert-butanol.

5. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which the base is an amine of the formula II



(II)

wherein

R₃, R₄ and R₅ independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₈alkyl.

6. (previously presented) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which the particle size of the inorganic additive is in the range of from 2 to 300 nanometers.

7. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis takes place at a temperature of from -20 to 80°C.

8. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which n is 0.

9. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, in which component (b) is a hydrolyzed compound of the formula I wherein, R₂ is ethyl and n is 0, with aqueous ammonia.

10. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating composition is a paint.

11. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating composition is an aqueous paint.

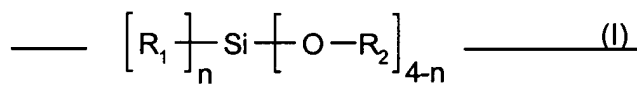
12. (cancelled)

13. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising one or more components taken from the class consisting of pigments, dyes, fillers, flow control agents, dispersants, thixotropic agents, adhesion promoters, antioxidants, light stabilizers and curing catalysts.

14. (original) A coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid content of component (b) is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 20 % based on the weight of the overall solids content of the coating composition.

15. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a coating composition ~~according to claim 1,~~ which comprises mixing ~~a first component (a)~~ an organic film-forming binder selected from the group consisting of polyurethane resin, amino resin, acrylic resin, acrylic copolymer resin, polyvinyl resin, phenolic resin, styrene/butadiene copolymer resin, vinyl/acrylic copolymer resin, UV-curable resin, a mixture of two or more of the resins, an aqueous basic dispersion of the resins or mixtures of the resins, an aqueous acidic dispersion of the resins or mixtures of the resins and an aqueous emulsion of the resins or mixtures of the resins,

with component (b) an inorganic additive with a base, which inorganic additive is of small particle size dispersed in an aqueous or alcoholic solvent prepared by a process which comprises the hydrolysis of a metal alcoholate, metal halide or a compound of the formula I



in which

R₁ is C₁-C₈alkyl, C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₁-C₄alkyl substituted phenyl;

R₂ is C₁-C₈alkyl, and

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and distillation of the aqueous or alcoholic solvent under normal pressure at a temperature range of 50 to 140°C until most or all of the solvent is evaporated, —; and optionally, adding a second component (a).

16. (cancelled).

17. (original) A process for protecting a substrate, which comprises applying thereto a coating composition according to claim 1 and then drying and/or curing it.

18. (original) A process for preparing a reinforced coating with improved scratch resistance on a surface, which comprises treating this surface with a coating composition according to claim 1 and then drying and/or curing it.

19. (cancelled)